

**1 Peter 1:6-12 (NIV)**

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, 11 trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

60-01-02 -The Saints: Tested Believers  
salvation, joy, testing, suffering, testimony  
1 Pet 1:6-12

The glorious joy of our salvation outshines life's darkest trials.

**INTRODUCTION: (Text as Scripture Reading)**

–The 1<sup>st</sup> message in this series: *Saints: Hopeful Sojourners*; this **title**.  
–There's a connection in Scripture between *salvation* and *joy*– **Psa 51:12**, Restore to me the **joy of your salvation** and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. / **Isa 12:3**, With **joy** you will draw water from the wells of **salvation**. / **Hab 3:18** (NKJV), Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will **joy** in the God of my **salvation**.  
–**HOM.idea**. True **joy** is not a feeling, dependent upon *prosperity* and *pleasant circumstances*, but a spiritual fruit, a behavioral attitude, even *in the midst of suffering*– **v.6** “*In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.*”

**I. Earthly Trials Prepare Us For Glory to Come**

A. Trials and testings cause us “to suffer grief”–

1. Jesus didn't look lovingly at His cross but loathingly– **Mat 26:37**, He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be **sorrowful** and **troubled**. [*troubled* = to be consumed with *loathing*]
2. Christ didn't *enjoy the cross*, but He *endured it with joy!*–**Heb 12:2**, Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for **the joy** set before him **endured** the cross, **scorning its shame**, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

B. Jesus showed us that trials can be endured, because–

1. They are *temporary*: “*now for a little while*”– **2 Cor 4:17**, For our light and **momentary troubles** are achieving for us an **eternal glory** that far outweighs them all. [*Surgery* is *temporary* pain for *long-term* health.]
2. Trials and testings are *necessary*: “*if it be necessary*”(YLT). [**No Pain, No Gain**”– for *athletes*, *dieters*, *students*, or for *saints suffering trials*.]
3. Trials are “*only human*”, which applies to “*all kinds of trials*”– **1 Cor 10:13**, No temptation has seized you except what is **common to man**. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. [This phrase “**all kinds**” = “*multi-colored*” like a *rainbow*, which is a *joyous sight in a storm*. But **rainbows** appear only when light is cast upon the clouds. And **joy** comes when **God's light** shines on life's stormy trials.]

C. Trials test the quality of our faith– **v.7**, *These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by*

fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1. **Trials ask us:** “*Is your ‘faith ... genuine’?*” (In light of eternity, our faith is of “*greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire*” (This may be **why fiery financial trials are so common!** God wants us to trust in Him, when the world tells us to trust in gold.)
2. Trials **ask**, “*Is your faith it destined for ‘praise, glory and honor’?*” – **Mat 25:21** (ESV), “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been **faithful** over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into **the joy** of your master.’” (As a saint, your eternal glory will be to “Enter into the joy of your master.”)

**TRANS:** The glorious joy of our salvation outshines life’s darkest trials. The fires of earthly trials and testing which glare in our faces now will be like dim shadows in the brightness of the glory to come. *Earthly trials prepare us for eternal glory.* But...

## II. Trust Alone Connects Us with That Eternal Glory

- A. Our relationship with Christ is not dependent on sight– **v.8**, *Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an **inexpressible and glorious joy**,*
  1. There’s a special blessing of “*inexpressible and glorious joy*” right now for those who “*love*” Christ without having “*seen him*”– **John 20:29**, Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”
  2. **Seeing is not believing**– **2 Cor 5:7**, We live by faith, not by sight. [My poem: “**I WASN’T THERE**”

I wasn’t there when, bleeding, Jesus cried,  
“Forgive them, for they know not what they do.”  
But in my heart I’ve felt His blood applied  
To wash my sinful soul and make it new.

I wasn’t there when on a mountain tall  
He sent disciples forth to preach the News.  
But I obeyed the day I heard Him call  
For me to follow: I could not refuse.

I wasn’t there when Jesus rose from death.  
I didn’t see the risen Christ, my Lord.  
But I have felt Him blow His gentle breath  
When, on my knees, His blessing I implored.

I wasn’t there when He returned on high  
To reign beside His Father on the throne.  
But I will hold His hand the day I die  
And feel the touch that I have always known.

I wasn’t there when Thomas voiced his doubt  
And failed to trust, until the Lord appeared.  
But I was here when troubles thrashed about,  
Till Jesus led me past the things I feared.

- B. Our relationship with Christ is the real source of Christian joy:
  1. The “*inexpressible and glorious joy*” of Heaven isn’t the location, but our relationship to Jesus, which people can experience right now!
  2. Believing is “*receiving*,”– **v.9**, *for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.* (Our “*faith*” has a “*goal*” for the soul: God’s “*salvation*” found only by “receiving” Christ, the soul’s Savior.)

**TRANS:** But Jesus *encouraged us with a warning in John 16:33*, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” Why does **the glorious joy of our salvation outshines life’s darkest trials**? It’s because Jesus not only *paved the way* before us, but *calls us, saying*, “**Follow Me!**”

- III. **The Whole Bible Tells of This Glory, v.10-12**, Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.
  - A. The **OT prophets** announced a “*grace that was to come*” through “*the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow*”
  - B. The **NT apostles** “*preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven*” – This good news of salvation for humanity is so *exciting*, so *glorious* that “*Even angels long to look into these things.*” (Those interested in angels need to pay attention to what angels are interested in!)

## **CONCLUSION:**

–*Trials and testing are real, suffering is real, tears are real*, but as **Henry Ward Beecher** said, “*God washes the eyes by tears until they can behold the invisible land where tears shall come no more.*” In **Rev 21:4**, God has promised that “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” That’s *our future hope* in Christ, but that future has already begun in our hearts by “*faith*.” Even now, in the midst of *life’s darkest trials*, *the glorious joy of our salvation outshines* them all, as we keep our eyes of faith fixed upon our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!